

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending, with claims 1, 11-12, 18, 21 and 23 amended, and claims 10 and 24-25 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. Claims 1, 12 and 18 are independent.

In the Official Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Antonacopoulos (flexible page segmentation using the background, hereinafter "Anton"); claims 9, 12-15 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anton; claims 8, 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anton in view of Ittner (EP 0621553); claim 17 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anton in view of Stolin (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,844); and claims 10-11 and 24-25 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 and 12 are amended to remove features added via Applicant's last entered amendment and to recite the allowable features of claims 10 and 24. Claim 18 is amended in a similar fashion. Claims 11, 21 and 23 are amended to maintain antecedent basis.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco (Reg. No. 52,041) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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